get in touch with the Government of Maharashtra and settle details about the requirement of land and the contribution to be made by the State Government in setting up the Centre. The Government of Maharashtra has, already offered sixty acres of land at Aurangabad in the context of the NSNIS West Centre.

Appointment of National Professors

378. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Professors who have been appointed during the last five years, disciplinwise; and

(b) the criteria adopted for their selection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) During the last 5 years, 4 persons have been awarded the National Professorship. Of these, one is an ornithologist, one a philosopher, one an economist, and one a lawyer.

(b) National Professorship is conferred to honour distinguished academics and scholors in recongnition to their contribution to knowledge. Persons of eminence who have attained the age of 65 years and have made outstanding contributions in their field and are still capable of further productive work are considered for this honour.

Ratio between birth and death rate

379. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the ratio between the birth rate and the death rate in various states during the last three years;

(b) what steps the Government have taken to reduce the death rate; and

(c) the Central assistance given to the State Governments, State-wise, during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Sample Registration System of Registrar General of India provides annual estimates of birth and death rates. As per latest available estimates of birth and death rates in various States a statement containing ratio between birth rate and the death rate for the year 1982, 1983 and 1984 is given in Annexure-1. [*See* Appendix CXXXIX, Annexure No. 16].

(b) To reduce deaths due to various communicable and non-communicable diseases in India, Government of India have launched various national programmes like National Malaria Eradication Programme, National T. B. Control Programme, Diarroheral Disease Control Programme, Cancer Control Programme. Universal Immunisation Programme and Maternal Child Health Care Pragramme. Besides, upgradation of curative facilities. development of board based primary Health Care system aimed at preventive and promotive health care coupled with improvement in the socio-economic status of the population are the factors responsible to reduce death rate.

(c) A statement, showing State-wise amount of cash assistance released to the various States for implementation of the Family Welfare Pragramme during 1983 84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 is given in Annexure-II [*See* Appendix CXXXIX, Annexure No. 17]

Allotment of wagons for transportation of iodised salt

380. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHWAHA:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway authorities have decided not to allot wagons to the private sector for transportation of iodised salt; and